

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Art of Humor

By Walter E. Myer

YOU can tell a great deal about a person by the things he laughs at. Many, for example, laugh at the misfortunes of others. An accident, even though painful, is often regarded as quite amusing by observers. And there are people who think it is very funny to make biting, sarcastic remarks. Their wit has a hard edge. Frequently it hurts those at whom it is directed.

One who uses his wits to hurt feelings or to cause discomfort, or one who enjoys seeing others in difficult situations, has in him a streak of cruelty. It is revealed by his jokes, his conversation, his laughter. It disfigures his personality, makes enemies of those who bear the brunt of his "wit," and loses the respect of those who are present when his barbed tongue inflicts wounds upon its victims.

It is a pity that humor should be perverted to such uses. Humor at its best is a saving grace. It helps us through many difficulties. It makes life pleasant and happy.

But humor at its best is kindly. A person with a fine sense of humor sees amusing angles to the most serious problems. He is frequently finding something to smile about; frequently suggesting something surprising or ridiculous, and doing so in such a way as to give everyone a laugh and to give no one pain.

That was the sort of humor which Abraham Lincoln possessed, and which carried him and his associates through many trying hours. It is the kind which all should try to develop.

A world without humor would be a dull place, and an individual without a sense of humor misses the greatest joys which life affords. But a sense of humor should develop along with one's other appreciations. It may be expected to change as one proceeds with his education and becomes more mature.

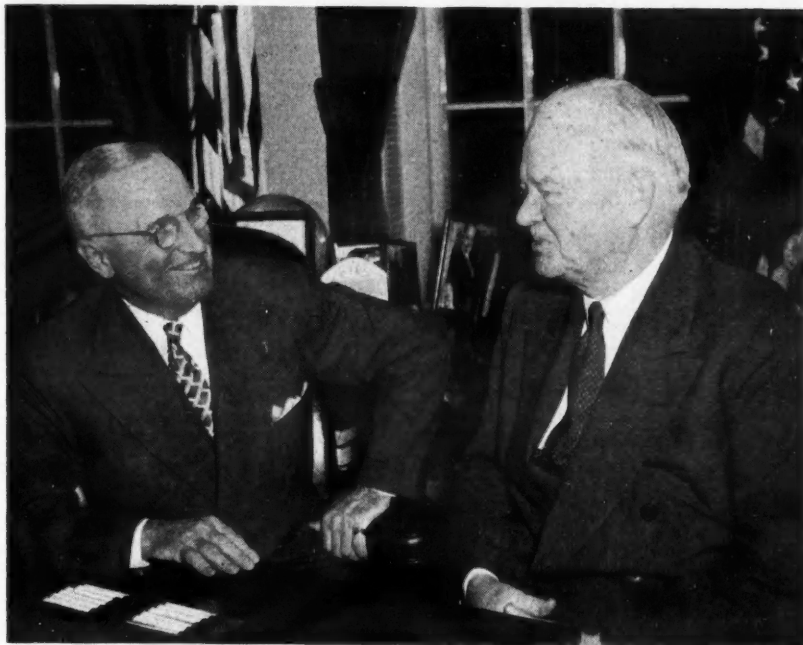
It seems too bad that so many people, if one may judge by the roars of laughter which emerge from crowds at the movies or at vaudeville performances, have ceased to grow in their appreciations of humor. They laugh at stupid and pointless jokes which might amuse a 10-year-old, but which should not impress one who has passed the childish age.

One trouble with our humor may be that we overwork it. No one can be funny all the time, and no one should try to be. The difficulty here can be seen in the efforts of radio comedians who strive to be funny only once a week during a relatively short broadcast. As anyone who has listened to them knows, the efforts of these highly paid professionals are not always successful, though they have worked an entire week to produce a half-hour program.

Humor in moderation, humor that is discriminating, kindly, and considerate—humor of that kind may well be practiced and appreciated. It should be cultivated by everyone. This is an art which may be acquired by any intelligent and sensitive person.



Walter E. Myer



HARRIS & EWING

President Truman has taken steps to put into operation some of the proposals for government reorganization which were made earlier this year by the commission of which former President Herbert Hoover (shown on right above) was chairman.

Coming Weeks Are Critical In Federal Reorganization

If Not "Vetoed" by Congress Before August 20, President Truman's First Seven Proposals Will Go into Effect

THE nation's biggest business seems about to be reorganized at last. After years of talk about streamlining the Executive Branch of our federal government, Congress and the President have finally come to grips with the problem. In fact, they have made a definite beginning. If the lawmakers will postpone their vacations until after August 19, the reorganizing of the President's branch will get under way.

The date, August 19, requires some explaining. Last month Congress passed the Reorganization Act of 1949. This act gave the President power to reorganize the Executive Branch—within certain limits. The authority granted him for this purpose was considerable. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (Republican, Massachusetts), said at the time that the act would "enable the President to clear away the cobwebs and make our popular system of government as effective as we all want it to be."

But the President was required to submit his reorganization plans to Congress. In making this stipulation, the legislators attached two stout strings to the package they sent the White House.

First, it was provided that if either house of Congress did not approve of the President's plans it could kill them by a majority vote. Second, if neither house acted to kill the plans, they would become effective only at the end of 60 calendar days of continuous congressional session following the date upon which the President sent them to Congress. In other words,

Congress can veto the reorganization plans by a majority vote in either house, or it can prevent their taking effect by ending the session before the 60-day period expires.

The act went to the White House on June 16. Four days later, President Truman signed it and sent Congress seven plans as a start toward remodeling the Executive Branch. The plans cannot, therefore, go into effect until after August 19.

Now the question of the hour is "What will Congress do?" Representative Clare E. Hoffman (Republican, Michigan) has accused some of his

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Austrian Pact Being Written

Small Central European Nation May Regain Complete Independence Before Long

REPRESENTATIVES of Britain, France, Russia, and the United States are at work on a treaty which, if successfully completed, will restore full independence to Austria. The U. S. Secretary of State and the Foreign Ministers of the three other large nations agreed, at the Paris conference which ended late last month, on general terms for the treaty. They instructed lower-ranking officials of their governments to work out the details by September 1.

Agreement on the main issues of the Austrian problem was probably the most important result of the recent Paris conference. It gives Austrians reason to hope that occupation troops of the Big Four powers will soon leave their country. In the detailed job of writing the treaty, however, there is plenty of room for serious dispute. Arguments can still lead to a breakdown on Austria.

Some Western diplomats fear that such a breakdown will occur. No real progress, they point out, was made at Paris on the much bigger question of Germany. Austria and Germany, both under military occupation by Russia and the Western nations, are closely related. Individuals who are skeptical feel that Russia is insincere, that she will not agree to a real settlement on Austria until questions over Germany are also solved. Whether this is true remains to be seen.

The terms of the Paris agreement seem quite clear. If they are carried out, the Austrian treaty should be ready sometime during 1949. President Truman has expressed pleasure that there has been progress toward the writing of such a treaty.

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Austria has had difficulty in producing enough food for its people since the war. Austrians hope that they will be allowed to manage their own affairs soon.

Reorganization

(Concluded from page 1)

colleagues in the House of working in the interests of officeholders who do not like the plans. These congressmen, he says, held up the bill for a while so that there would not be time for the reorganization plans to become effective.

"The Congressional Reorganization Act of 1946," he points out, "provides that Congress shall adjourn not later than July 31 unless there is some national emergency. Hence, through their delaying tactics, the bureaucrats have won the first skirmish in their battle to prevent reorganization."

Not all congressmen were so pessimistic about reorganization's chances. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn (Democrat, Texas) says he thinks Congress will decide to remain in session through August 19.

If Speaker Rayburn is right, we can be sure that—in the words of a once-popular song—"there'll be some changes made." Those changes are set forth in the seven plans which President Truman has submitted to Congress. They may be summarized as follows:

1. A Department of Welfare will take its place among the executive departments of the national government. It will assume most of the functions of the Federal Security Agency. This agency includes the Office of Education, the Public Health Services, the Social Security Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration. The Department of Welfare will be headed by a secretary who will become the 10th member of the President's Cabinet.

2. The Bureau of Employment Security will be transferred from the Social Security Administration to the Department of Labor. This bureau assists the states in getting federal aid for their unemployment insurance programs. In addition, it operates the U. S. Employment Service.

3. The Post Office Department will be reorganized. A Deputy Postmaster General will serve as first assistant to the head of the department. An advisory board, consisting of the Postmaster General, his deputy, and seven outsiders will be set up.

In a subsequent message to Con-



One of President Truman's first recommendations to Congress, under the government reorganization plan, deals with the nation's postal service

gress, President Truman asked for legislation that would do four things: (a) give the Post Office Department a business-type accounting system; (b) grant the Postmaster General authority to appoint postmasters and other employees, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Act; (c) establish a research and development program to insure constant improvement of the postal system; (d) raise postal rates so that the department will not continue to have a big deficit every year.

4. To clear up a dispute as to whether the National Security Council and the National Security Resources Board are in any way subject to the National Military Establishment, Plan Number Four definitely states that they are a part of the Executive Office of the President. Both groups advise the President on defense matters.

5. The chairman of the Civil Service Commission will be made the sole administrator of his agency. At present three commissioners share the administrative functions. The commission is responsible for seeing that all government employees subject to its regulations are appointed on the basis of merit rather than political influence.

6. In a similar move to strengthen the chairman of the Maritime Commission, that official will be given complete executive authority over his agency. The Maritime Commission's duty is to foster the development of a strong and well-balanced merchant fleet—one that can serve the nation both in war and in peace.

7. The Public Roads Administration—the government's principal road-building office—will be transferred from the Federal Works Agency to the Department of Commerce.

It is at once apparent that the plans summarized above are only the first steps toward a complete reorganization of the Executive Branch. More plans and further legislation by Congress will be needed to give this important section of the national government a more modern structure.

As a guide for the whole remodeling project, we have a long series of reports drawn up by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. This commission was set up by Congress in June, 1947. It was a non-partisan group, for no more than six of its 12 members could come from the same political party. The President, the Speaker of the House, and the President *pro tempore* of the Senate were each given the power to appoint four members of the Commission. Former President Herbert Hoover was chosen as chairman, and the group came to be called by his name.

The Hoover Commission began by organizing more than 20 teams, which were designated by the wartime term "task forces." Each of these teams attacked a particular part of the whole problem. In all about 300 men and women of outstanding qualifications were enlisted for work on the task forces.

After several months of research, the teams submitted their findings to the Commission, which then drew up its own recommendations to present to Congress. The final recommendations were made nearly two years after the Commission was formed.

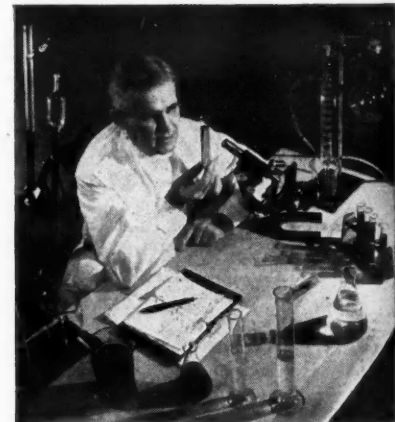
"It is almost impossible to comprehend the organization and management problems of the federal government," said the concluding report of last May, "unless one has some concept of its hugeness and complexity. The sheer size, complexity and geographi-

cal dispersion of its operations almost stagger the imagination.

"As a result of depression, war, new needs for defense, and our greater responsibilities abroad, the federal government has become the largest enterprise on earth. In less than 20 years its civil employment has increased from 570,000 to over 2,000,000. Its bureaus, sections, and units have increased fourfold to over 1,800. Annual expenditures have soared from three billion dollars to over 42 billion. It now costs more each year to pay the interest on the national debt than it did to pay the total cost of the federal government 16 years ago. . . . Such rapid growth could not take place without creating serious problems of organization and management. Methods, procedures, and controls effective two decades ago cannot cope with the management needs of today."

Major changes recommended by the Hoover Commission are intended to accomplish two purposes.

The first of these is the simplification of the President's task by reducing the number of agencies which he must supervise. So many departments, bureaus, and agencies report directly to the Chief Executive that he could not give each of them an hour a week even if he worked 10 hours daily, Monday through Saturday, taking no time off for other activities.



Scientists employed by the Food and Drug Administration help protect the public from harmful products. President Truman would like to include this service in his proposed Department of Welfare.

The second purpose is to promote economy and efficiency by eliminating overlapping and duplication in the services of the government. At present, for example, we have 29 agencies lending money, 34 buying land, 10 putting up buildings, and 16 working to preserve wildlife.

These two objectives and the Hoover Commission's suggestions for attaining them have been approved in the main by President Truman, Congress, and—so far as can be ascertained—by the country at large. One would suppose that it would be no trick at all to get the necessary action on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

But the matter is not as simple as it looks. The chief trouble, Mr. Hoover tells us, is that everybody in the government favors reorganization only for the "other fellow." He wants the reformers to leave him or his political friends strictly alone.

The foes of reorganization manage to make their influence felt in both the legislative and executive branches of the government. Even if Mr. Truman's modest seven-step beginning is allowed to become effective next month, we shall still be unable to gauge Washington's enthusiasm for a thorough reconstruction job.



Our social security system, which supervises retirement payments to the aged, would become a branch of the proposed Department of Welfare

Gunther Reports on Postwar Europe

New Book by Noted Writer Is Aid to Understanding

John Gunther's latest book, "Behind the Curtain," (New York: Harper and Brothers, \$3) is attracting wide attention. The author, whose prewar writings won him a reputation as a top expert on Europe, revisited that continent last year. Here he reports on what he found. Mr. Gunther's trip took him to countries in both Western Europe and the Soviet orbit.

The rest of this article consists of a summary of some of the noted correspondent's findings. Whether or not readers agree with all the conclusions reached by Mr. Gunther, they will find the book worthy of their consideration. "Behind the Curtain" can contribute much toward an understanding of postwar Europe.

Italy. Poverty is the biggest problem faced by the Italians. The country has some 45 million people, although it can adequately support only about 32 million, and the population is increasing all the time. While the spread of communism has been checked, the miserable poverty of the masses may result in a revival of Communist influence in the future.

The nation must continue to have temporary aid from the United States, but if the Communist threat is to be eliminated, Italy must also put through many reforms of a social and economic nature. The Communists still have a good deal of strength in local town and city governments even though they were beaten in last year's national election.

Yugoslavia. Although this Balkan country is a police state with a good deal of poverty and misery, it has, nonetheless, a feeling of vitality and confidence in the future. Tito is said to have smoothed over the old quarrel between the Serbs and Croats better than anyone before him, and he enjoys high prestige at home.

Although Tito and Russia are at odds, Yugoslavia is not likely to line up with the Western powers. However, it is quite possible in Tito's opinion that the United States and Yugoslavia might get along on the basis of improved trade relations. The Yugoslav leader also thinks that his country might turn out to be a bridge between the East and West.

Greece. Few Americans realize the degree to which the United States is

committed in Greece. We are, in fact, "up to our necks" in the affairs of that country. We control the Greek economy and American military men practically command the Greek army. Most of the Greek people are heartily in favor of our intervention.

The civil war has not gone well for the government. Morale is poor among the government troops, and today the guerrillas have more than twice as many soldiers as when the war started. It is hard to tell to what extent the rebels are receiving help from neighboring countries that are Communist controlled.

Turkey. The Turks are a tough people and their morale is high. The country spends more than half of its national income on defense. It takes a good deal out of the nation to keep it mobilized to such a degree, but the Turks don't dare to relax. They don't want war, but if Russia should attack, Turkey would probably put up a determined fight.

The country's greatest problem is to educate its masses. Roads and communications must also be improved. Turkey is not a democracy, but the basis of the government is steadily broadening.

Hungary. As compared to the other Soviet satellites, Hungary has an air of well-being. There are many goods in the shops, but prices are high. The outward trappings of communism—massed red flags, pictures of Lenin and Stalin, and so on—are not in evidence.

However, the Communists direct the government despite the fact that there are still a considerable number of non-Communists in office. Matyas Rakosi, a veteran Communist revolutionary, is the man who rules Hungary even though his position in the government is only that of Deputy Prime Minister. There has recently been a tightening of the Communist grip throughout the country.

Czechoslovakia. The Communists gained control here through an outright seizure of power. In the free election of 1946 they got 38 per cent of the votes, but they would almost surely get less than that today. Since the country was a democracy before the war, the people feel the loss of their rights much more than they

would had they never lived under the Western type of democracy.

The nation experiences no "hot terror," but economic pressure is widespread. Anyone openly opposing the government will eventually lose his job, his housing space, or his food tickets. It is hard to tell how much opposition to the government exists, but any "revolt" against the regime is out of the question at this time.

Poland. The war destruction in this land was frightful. With the possible exception of Stalingrad, Warsaw was hit harder than any other big community in the world. However, the Poles are showing a remarkable energy and spirit in rebuilding their country. Warsaw is the liveliest capital in Europe.

Poland gives the appearance of being much freer of Soviet pressure than the other satellite states. It has made a substantial recovery and is the most prosperous of the states of eastern Europe. The Poles are a highly individualistic people, and their form of communism seems to differ in some ways—for the present, at least—from the Russian variety.

Austria. Vienna, the capital of Austria, seems gloomy, but conditions are said to be slowly improving. Food is more plentiful than formerly. The city is also notable for the fact that it is probably the only place in the world where Americans and Russians are working together in a fair degree of harmony.

Vienna is divided into five zones—four occupation zones and an international zone. There are minor frictions, but the various powers manage to get along with one another.

Great Britain. Despite the hardships they have had to bear, the British are by no means down and out. Resolutely and doggedly they are fighting their way back. The government thinks that the best hope for the future lies in the growth of socialist-inclined governments in Western Europe. It thinks that the best way to beat communism in the long run is to bring about reforms—such activities, for example, as are being carried out today under the British nationalization program.

All in all, Britain is probably the healthiest state in Europe today. The



John Gunther, author of the recently published book, *Behind the Curtain*

British are making great sacrifices, but they give the impression that they will come out all right in the end.

France. The nation suffers from moral rot. There is widespread disregard of law. Black marketeers work openly on the streets, and it is practically a point of honor for the average Frenchman not to pay taxes if, through bribery or any other means, he can get away with it.

Because of the temper of the people, it is, therefore, extremely difficult to put through necessary reform measures and enforce them. However, France is by no means finished despite all the hardship she has undergone in the past decade. The Marshall Plan is helping greatly.

Germany. This country is the chief key to the world struggle between communism and Western democracy, but our policy in Germany has been confused. Some Americans want to keep the country weak; others think it would be to our benefit to allow Germany to build itself up again. General Clay tried to follow a middle course between these two extreme points of view, but he encountered many difficulties.

Russian policy in Germany is also confused. The Soviet Union seems to have given up its aim of communizing Germany in the foreseeable future, and is now simply trying to keep the country disunited. Soviet prestige in Germany is low. In fact, in a free election the Russians would probably get as little as five per cent of the votes in their own zone.



Budapest, capital of Hungary, has an air of well-being, according to Mr. Gunther, although a number of the bridges that once spanned the Danube are still in ruins



Life for the people of Poland is not easy, but John Gunther says that they have shown a remarkable amount of energy in rebuilding their nation since the war

The Story of the Week

"52-20"

Rights of most World War II veterans to obtain unemployment or "readjustment" payments from the U. S. government will end this month unless the time limit for such allowances is extended by Congress. These unemployment benefits are the well-known "52-20" payments, provided under the G.I. Bill of 1944. Unemployed veterans of World War II have been able to obtain them at the rate of 20 dollars per week for a total of not more than 52 weeks.

The program was set up at the close of the war in order to help veterans who were unable to find suitable civilian jobs immediately after leaving the armed forces. Since the plan went into effect, well over half of the 15 million eligible veterans have at one time or another received payments.

Some observers feel that this summer is a particularly unfortunate period for the program to end. There is more unemployment now than at any previous time since the war, and many veterans are in need of assistance. Congress, therefore, is being urged to extend the time limit for readjustment allowances for at least two more years. If it does so, jobless veterans who have not already received all 52 of their payments can continue to obtain unemployment benefits. Advocates of the measure say that the nation owes its veterans this added help.

Opponents, though, feel that present-day unemployment is a problem which concerns veterans and non-veterans alike. These critics believe that any U. S. unemployment relief measures now taken should not be restricted to ex-service men alone. The government, they argue, should not extend a program which was set up to help veterans through a comparatively brief readjustment period.

Housing Program

The federal housing measure which was recently passed by Congress and sent to the President sets up a long-range building program to provide homes for people with low incomes. Under it, government funds are to help in the construction of more than 800,000 low-rent homes during the next six years.

Moreover, federal grants and loans totaling 1½ billion dollars will go to help local governments carry out slum-clearance projects. Additional



These young Americans are among 31 who are spending four and a half months on European farms to find out how the people of other lands live. They are shown here aboard the ship that carried them to Europe. A Texan is exhibiting his cowboy boots.

grants and loans, amounting to more than a quarter of a billion dollars, will aid in the repair and improvement of farm buildings. The measure also provides for government-sponsored research aimed at developing improved building materials and construction methods.

President Truman has repeatedly requested a federal housing plan of this nature. Although the act does not provide as extensive a program as he wanted, its passage by Congress is generally regarded as an important administration victory.

Bitter Struggle

The struggle between the Communist government of Czechoslovakia and the Catholic Church is attracting wide attention. It had its beginning some months ago when the government, as part of its land-reform program, took some of the land owned by the church. The question of payment was not settled, and later the government put certain restrictions on Catholic newspapers and schools. Church leaders were asked to sign an oath of loyalty to the government.

In recent weeks the Communist government has increased its pressure on the church. Among other charges,

it asserts that Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague—who is vigorously defying the government—is cooperating with foreign enemies of the republic.

Archbishop Beran, on the other hand, charges that the government is trying to crush the church and has already done away with religious freedom. He says that he will not agree to any compromise in settlement of the dispute.

Many observers are wondering if the struggle will become another "Mindszenty case." Last winter Cardinal Mindszenty, head of the Catholic Church in Hungary and an outspoken foe of communism, was sentenced to prison after a long and bitter dispute between his church and Hungary's Communist government. The court sentencing him held that he was guilty of trying to overthrow the government. Supporters of Mindszenty in many lands asserted that the Hungarian government "trumped up" the charges in order to eliminate the cardinal from public life.

Baseball Spectacle

In Brooklyn tomorrow, July 12, the annual All-Star baseball game between teams representing the American and National Leagues will take place. It will

be the 16th meeting of the All-Star aggregations in the summer classic. The American League nine has come out on top on 11 occasions.

Except for the pitchers, the starting line-ups have been selected by balloting of the nation's fans. Among the leading players in the voting for the National League team were Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn, Ralph Kiner of Pittsburgh, and Stan Musial of St. Louis. Robinson has been leading his league at bat for much of the season, while Kiner and Musial rank high in home runs.

American Leaguers who received strong support from the fans include Ted Williams and Dom DiMaggio of Boston and Tommy Henrich of New York. These three veteran outfielders have all been hitting at a good clip this season.

Lou Boudreau, Cleveland manager, will direct the American Leaguers, while Billy Southworth, pilot of the Boston Braves, will have charge of the National League nine. These two managers won pennants in their respective leagues last year. Each will select his pitchers—the only choices not made by the fans.

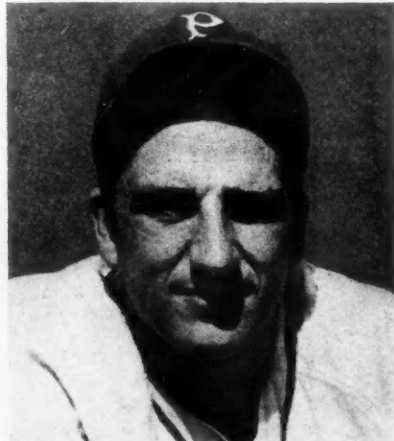
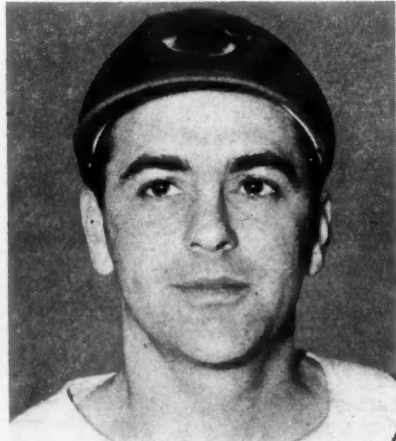
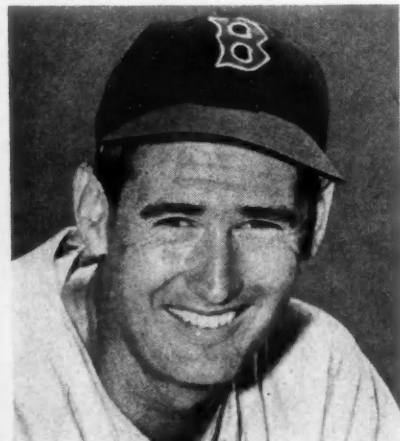
The All-Star encounter marks the only time that baseball enthusiasts can see all the game's top stars perform in the same contest. While the outcome has no bearing on the big-league pennant races, each league likes to come out on top as a matter of prestige.

Britain

Britain's foreign trade troubles and her dollar shortage (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, June 27, 1949) are receiving an increasing amount of attention in America. During recent weeks they have caused serious disagreements between our country and the United Kingdom.

One of these disagreements involved the British-Argentine trade pact, which was signed two weeks ago in spite of U. S. protests. The treaty, under which Britain will send industrial goods to Argentina in exchange for meat and grain, will help both those nations to obtain needed materials without dipping into their reserves of scarce American dollars. U. S. objections were based largely on the grounds that the agreement may hurt our trade with Argentina and interfere with world commerce in general.

Meanwhile, Britain found herself in disagreement with America and sev-



Taking part in the annual All-Star game to be held at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, tomorrow are (left to right) Ted Williams, of the Boston Red Sox; Lou Boudreau, Cleveland Indians; Ralph Kiner, Pittsburgh Pirates; and Stan Musial, St. Louis Cardinals



A member of the Women's Army Corps directs traffic at an intersection at Camp Gordon, Georgia, where the first group of WAC Military Police recently graduated. The feminine MP's received training similar in most respects to that given men.

eral other countries in connection with the operation of the European Recovery Program. Our officials insisted on some new financial arrangements to increase trade among the nations that are getting Marshall Plan help. Americans feel that such trade must grow if Europe is to have a healthy economy. Although Britain feared that the proposed measures would cause a drain on her dollar supply, a compromise was finally reached.

The arguments between Britain and the United States have, so far, been conducted in a comparatively friendly way. American officials, realizing that Britain is in a serious predicament, have made great efforts to help work out suitable solutions.

St. Laurent's Victory

The recent Canadian election, which resulted in a landslide victory for the Liberal party, made Louis St. Laurent Prime Minister "in his own right." A cabinet member for several years, he received the job of Prime Minister in 1948, after Mackenzie King resigned. The balloting this summer, however, constituted his first test of popularity in a nation-wide election.

St. Laurent's Liberal Party got almost three-fourths of the seats in Parliament. His re-election to Canada's most powerful office was thus made certain, since Parliament chooses the Prime Minister. Policies of St. Laurent's political group somewhat resemble those of President Truman's followers in the United States; and the strongest opposition force—the Progressive Conservative Party—is frequently compared with U. S. Republicans.

St. Laurent, who did not enter politics until the early part of World War II, is a lawyer by profession.

"Bold New Program"

President Truman has sent Congress a detailed outline of the "bold new program" of world development which he suggested during his inaugural address last January. He wants an appropriation of 45 million dollars to get the project under way.

With this money the United States would help underdeveloped nations make use of their land and other resources to improve the living conditions of their people. American engineers, agricultural experts, and technicians, for example, would go to foreign regions where their advice is

needed and wanted. Health and sanitation experts would tackle diseases that plague vast areas in the tropics and elsewhere.

President Truman believes that our government should, moreover, encourage private businessmen to invest money in lands which need new industries. He feels that the individuals and companies which make such investments abroad should receive government guarantees against losses resulting from revolutions and certain other causes.

Increase of production and improvement of living standards in lands where life is now comparatively primitive, says the President, will bring a number of benefits to the world as a whole. For instance, there is hope that it will gradually raise the incomes of many people who are now poverty-stricken, and enable them to buy manufactured products which American and European businessmen want to sell.

Whether the program will receive serious consideration during the relatively short time left in the present meeting of Congress remains to be seen. But even if it is by-passed in the last-minute rush this summer, its possible advantages and drawbacks will be thoroughly debated during the lawmakers' next session.

Strasbourg

Headquarters for the Council of Europe, an organization created last spring, are being set up in Strasbourg, France. Within this Council, representatives from Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden will try to discover ways in which their countries can work together on various matters.

Strasbourg officials are worried about the problem of finding living and working quarters for the Council representatives and staff members. The city, which was badly bombed during World War II, is already crowded. Whether it will be the European organization's permanent "capital" remains to be seen.

Situated just west of the Rhine River, ancient Strasbourg has been sometimes under German rule and sometimes under French. As a result of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, Germany took the Alsace-Lorraine region, in which the city is located. Victory in World War I enabled France to regain the area nearly

half a century later. During the period between those two conflicts, a Strasbourg monument in Paris was kept draped in black.

Novel Radio Project

This summer a novel experiment in international good will is being carried out on the popular radio program, "Town Meeting of the Air." During the coming weeks, the program's participants will conduct their discussions in each of 12 foreign capitals. Americans taking part in the project are already in Europe on the first leg of a round-the-world tour.

Two Americans and two foreigners will participate in each discussion. Among the Americans taking part in the international talks are representatives of 26 national organizations that are cooperating with the Town Meeting staff in sponsoring the unusual project. Foreign leaders in each country will round out the panel for discussion of a current topic.

The party will present its program first in a number of European capitals. Traveling by air, it will later visit the capitals of such countries as Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Japan, and the Philippines.

All programs will be recorded for re-broadcasting in this country. The first re-broadcast will be tomorrow—July 12—over the ABC network. For the time of the program, consult your local paper.

Schooling for Adults

Approximately 30 million Americans are now students in adult education classes, according to the findings of a recent survey made at Columbia University. If this situation continues, the nation's educational pattern—it is predicted—may undergo a radical change. In fact, more adults than children may, in the future, be carry-

ing on systematic programs of study in our schools.

Dr. Paul Essert, who made the survey, gives a number of reasons for the increasing concern of adults with part-time education. For one thing, he says, the public schools are becoming more and more concerned with furnishing guidance for young adults who are taking on community responsibilities. For example, during a recent school year, more than 1½ million persons were enrolled in adult education classes in the public schools alone.

Dr. Essert also points out that today an increasing number of people are realizing that they do not acquire a full education during the first 20 years of their lives. Many of these individuals are now pursuing studies offered in adult classes by public schools, libraries, museums, business concerns, and labor organizations.

Greek Experiment

A strange experiment is being performed on the Greek island of Makronissos. The Greek government has sent thousands of young Communists and Communist sympathizers there, and is retraining them to fight against Soviet influenced rebel troops. Some of the trainees are men who were taken from regular Greek army units after having been recognized as Communist sympathizers. Others are captured members of the Communist guerrilla forces.

In addition to good training, the Makronissos camp provides excellent recreation facilities. Large numbers of the men who are sent there become enthusiastic supporters of the Greek government. Battalions of soldiers trained in this camp have already established good fighting records. Greek officers report that surprisingly few Makronissos "graduates" have deserted the government side after leaving the camp.



Navy planes do their part in warning residents of Florida of approaching hurricanes. These PB4Y-2's fly out over the sea to check on storms for the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Austrian Pact

(Concluded from page 1)

One of the main decisions made about Austria at the Paris conference was in connection with some property that Russia has been holding since the end of the war. This matter was discussed in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER several months ago, but because of recent developments it needs to be reviewed.

In 1943 Russia and the Western nations agreed that Austria would, at the close of World War II, be treated more as a country liberated from the Nazis than as a conquered enemy. As a result of this decision it was later declared that no reparations, or war damages, would be collected from Austria. The Western powers did agree, however, that Russia could take over any "German assets" or holdings in eastern Austria—the portion of the country occupied by Soviet troops.

Trouble quickly developed over the definition of "German assets." The Nazis had in previous years taken by force a great deal of Austrian property, such as oil fields and factories. Russia took a large portion of this property, insisting that it was to be included among the holdings which the Western countries had agreed to let her seize. Britain, France, and America, on the other hand, argued that factories and oil fields which the Nazis had stolen should not be called German property at all. The Western powers insisted on returning them to the Austrians.

Compromise Effected

The United States, Britain, and France were willing for Russia to take holdings that were clearly and legally German, as had been agreed. But they wanted to let the Austrians keep what was originally Austrian property. The Russians, as a result of the Paris meeting, have now agreed to give up many of the holdings which they had claimed as German property.

The agreement by Russia and the Western nations is, however, a compromise. In return for releasing seized properties, the Soviet Union gets these important concessions:

1. Russia is to be paid 150 million dollars by Austria.
2. Russia gains full ownership of the Danube Shipping Company, which operates numerous river barges and has docks and buildings in the eastern



MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

part of Austria. Russia also gets full ownership of the company's property in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. This means that the most important holdings of the company, which carries food, coal, and other freight on the Danube, will be Russian.

3. For a long term of years, Russia gets control of most oil resources in eastern Austria. This will help in the maintenance of Russia's own industries and her armed forces.

While the concessions to Russia are sizable, the Austrians are reasonably well pleased. The 150 million dollars to be paid is not large in comparison with the big burden of occupation costs which Austria has been carrying during the last few years. Although United States forces have been paying their own way since 1947, Austria has been making heavy contributions toward the support of Russian, British, and French occupation armies.

When the treaty goes into effect, troops of the four nations are to withdraw. This will bring an end to the major occupation costs, and to the friction which inevitably results from the presence of foreign armies.

The Danube shipping trade, which is to remain in Soviet hands, is primarily with Balkan countries, now under Russian domination. Therefore the chances for Austria to control this trade were limited anyway.

Highly important to Austrians, meanwhile, is the knowledge that their nation—under the proposed treaty—would be able to use part of her oil production for herself, and that she would regain some valuable properties which were seized first by the Nazis and later by the Russians.

Other points agreed upon by the Foreign Ministers, in regard to Austria, offered less difficulty.

Russia withdrew her support of Yugoslav claims for a part of Austria's territory. Austria, therefore, is to have her 1937 boundaries. This will give her 7 million people about as much land as the state of Maine has.

Yugoslavia's request for 150 million dollars in reparations from Austria also was denied at the Paris meeting. It was agreed that the Yugoslavs may retain a considerable amount of Austrian property, located within Yugoslav territory. Most of this already had been taken over by Yugoslavia.

Russia, in the past, was the chief supporter of the Yugoslav cause. But the two countries have been cool toward each other ever since Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia broke away from full cooperation with Moscow last year. Because of this coolness, Russia saw no good reason to continue to support the Yugoslav claims, which had been a stumbling block in the way of agreement on Austria.

If and when the final treaty for Austria is signed, the Austrians will become masters of their own fate for the first time since March 12, 1938. On that day Adolf Hitler seized the country with German troops. The Austrian Republic, formed after World War I, was abolished and the country was made a part of Germany.

With the end of the Second World War, British, French, American, and Russian troops set up a military occupation. The Austrians were permitted to establish a government and hold elections, but acts of the government were subject to supervision and review by the occupying powers. Under the proposed treaty, the occupying troops will withdraw and the supervision will end.

One fear of Western negotiators is that, when the military supervision is ended, Communists may try to take power in Austria, just as they have done in Czechoslovakia. The Austrian Foreign Minister, Karl Gruber, be-

lieves his government will be able to handle this threat, and that there is no serious danger. The Communists in Austria, so far, have been unable to gain power through infiltration into the police and government offices. The treaty is to permit an armed force up to 58,000 men, and the Austrian government counts upon the loyalty of this group to prevent real disorder.

There is fear, of course, that the Paris agreement will fall apart, in disputes over details, before the treaty can be signed. Just after the Paris meeting adjourned, Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky raised a difficult question about the income from oil fields and other properties that Russia is to retain.

Russia Wants Dollars

From what he said, it appears that the Soviet Union will want the right to take at least part of this income in the form of dollars. Since Austria is short of dollars, and must rely mainly upon the European Recovery Program to obtain them, the Western nations are expected to oppose Russia on this point.

The greatest fear, expressed by a good many Western diplomats, is that Russia is only pretending to desire an Austrian settlement. The Soviet Union now keeps troops in Hungary and Romania to "tend the supply lines" of her forces in Austria. If the proposed treaty is put into force, Austrian occupation will end. This would remove the reason Russia has given for keeping troops in the Balkan countries.

Some of the Western diplomats think Russia does not want to do this. The Russians expect to retain troops in Germany; and according to many observers it is unlikely that they would want, meanwhile, to withdraw those stationed in neighboring areas. To do so might weaken Russian bargaining power with the West.

Despite this skepticism, there is a great deal of hope. The recent agreement to write the treaty for Austria came after seven unsuccessful attempts—made during the last three years. This is visible progress. It shows, a good many Western officials feel, that perseverance pays, that satisfactory agreements can be reached if one keeps trying.



Austria, like Germany, is split into occupation zones under the control of France, Great Britain, the United States, and Russia

Study Guide

Government Reorganization

1. How can Congress prevent the President's plans for government reorganization from becoming effective?
2. What new federal executive department is suggested by one of the plans President Truman has presented to Congress?
3. Discuss the proposed changes for the Post Office Department.
4. Give two proposals that have been made in addition to those brought out by the questions above.
5. Discuss briefly the work of the Hoover Commission.
6. What two purposes are intended to be accomplished by the changes recommended by the commission?
7. What is one of the chief obstacles in the way of governmental reform?

Discussion

1. How do you think the obstacle referred to in question 7 above can best be overcome? Give your reasons.
2. Which of the seven plans suggested by President Truman do you think is most important to the nation? Explain your position.

Austria

1. By what date do the Big Four Foreign Ministers want their deputies to finish working out the details of a treaty for Austria?
2. Explain the dispute that has occurred in connection with Germany's former holdings in eastern Austria.
3. What has Russia agreed to do about these properties?
4. Tell of the concessions made to Russia, in connection with Austria, at the recent Paris conference.
5. Give reasons for the fact that the Austrians seem rather well pleased with the results of the conference.
6. Why, apparently, did Yugoslavia fare badly at this meeting?
7. What issue did Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky raise just after the Paris conference had adjourned?
8. What reason is there for thinking that Russia may not actually want an Austrian settlement?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not expect the completion of an Austrian treaty along the lines of the recent Paris agreement? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Do you believe that such a treaty, in general, would be beneficial to Austria? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. What outstanding fact does John Gunther report about Greece in his book "Behind the Curtain"?
2. What nation, according to Mr. Gunther, is probably the healthiest state in Europe today?
3. Give arguments for and against continuing the unemployment allowances for veterans of World War II.
4. List the principal provisions of the federal housing bill recently passed by Congress.
5. Discuss two points on which the United States and Britain disagree at the present time.
6. On what "bold new program" does President Truman want to obtain congressional action?
7. What experiment is being conducted by the Greek government?

Pronunciations

Makronissos—mah'krō-nē'sōs
 Mindszenty—mind'sēn-tī
 Gruber—grō'buh
 Alsace-Lorraine—āl'sās luh-rān'
 St. Laurent—san low-rah'n'



Recent elections in Belgium indicate King Leopold will not return soon to Brussels, the large and busy capital of his native land

Prosperous Belgium

Outcome of Recent National Elections Reflects High Degree of Recovery Achieved by Country in Postwar Period

THE future of King Leopold, Belgium's exiled ruler, is still uncertain following the recent elections in that country. Had the Social Christian Party won a clear majority in the balloting, it is thought that Leopold, now living in Switzerland, would have been asked to return to rule over the Belgian people. However, the Social Christians—although they continue to be the largest party in Parliament—failed by a small margin to get control of that body.

Ever since the war, Leopold's future has been the most troublesome issue in Belgian politics. When the Germans invaded Belgium in 1940, King Leopold refused to flee to England to help form a government-in-exile. Instead, he gave in to the Germans and was held in a castle as their prisoner throughout the conflict.

Many Belgians charged that Leopold was sympathetic to the Germans and was counting on an Axis victory. Others denied this and said that the King was merely doing what he thought best for the Belgian people. After the war, Leopold was forbidden to return to the throne until Parliament permitted it. As yet, that permission has not been given.

Meanwhile, Charles, the brother of Leopold, has been acting as regent. Since Belgium is a constitutional monarchy, he does not have much power. Control of the nation's policies rests in a two-chamber Parliament which, in recent years, has been run by a coalition of the Social Christian and Socialist Parties. These two moderate groups won about 80 per cent of the seats in the last election.

Another striking result of the recent balloting was the blow dealt the Communists. While they had never played a major role in Belgian politics, the loss of about half of their seats in Parliament indicated a further decline in Communist influence. Since communism thrives on misery, their weak showing is believed undoubtedly to reflect the high degree of prosperity which Belgium has been enjoying.

No other European country that took part in World War II has made better recovery than Belgium. The nation did not suffer as great destruction as its neighbors during the war,

and so was able to start producing for peacetime purposes as soon as the conflict ended. As a result of the large amounts of goods and services that Belgium supplied for the Allied cause, the country also found itself in a comparatively good financial position on V-E Day. For example, Belgium was the only country in the world to which the United States owed money under the workings of the wartime lend-lease system.

The nation's postwar output has been remarkable. Industry is now producing some 25 per cent more than it did before the war. Leading among Belgium's heavy industries are coal mines and steel mills, although most of the ore from which the steel is made must be brought from other countries.

The Belgians are excellent farmers, too, but with their small land area—not much larger than Maryland—they cannot raise enough food for themselves. By selling their factory products abroad, they are able to get funds to buy food for the country's 8½ million people. The little North Sea nation is one of the most densely populated lands in Europe.

—By HOWARD SWEET.

Science News

A model of a bilingual elevator was recently put on display in Montreal—a city where two languages are commonly spoken. The elevator responds to commands in either English or French. When the operator says "up" or "en haut" into a microphone, the model rises. When "down" or "en bas" is spoken, the cage does down. The model is one foot high, but it is complete in every detail. Westinghouse Elevator Division, its designer, constructed the model primarily to show how delicate the mechanism of modern elevators is.

★ ★ ★

Electric "brains" that perform mathematical miracles are awe-inspiring, but they are no longer news. It is news, though, that the U. S. Bureau of Standards in its laboratory at the University of California is carrying the electric brain a step beyond mathematical calculation. The Bureau is developing a unit that will translate other languages into English, in addition to doing its mathematical chores. Scientists believe they can equip a brain with a 60,000-word vocabulary. By punching a word in one language on to a specially prepared tape, an operator could feed the tape to the machine and get back a translation.

★ ★ ★

Next year a museum dedicated to the first steel-makers in this country will be opened near Lynn, Massachusetts, according to present plans. Archaeologists working at the site recently unearthed part of the furnaces where the first iron was made in the American colonies more than 300 years ago. The furnaces, built in 1643, are to be reconstructed on the original foundations.

★ ★ ★

Three U. S. farm experts are going to Africa this month to make a study of agriculture in eastern, central, and western parts of the continent—areas under British control. The object of the survey is to find ways to adapt American methods of scientific farming to African needs. The trip, being made at the request of the British government, is part of the European Recovery Program.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.



Don and Bob Melvin of San Francisco examine some of the television broadcasting equipment which Bob built in his garage. Bob, who is 23 years old, built his own television camera and control equipment in less than a month. He broadcasts to the San Francisco Bay area almost every night between the hours of 8 and 10.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Chaim Weizmann," by Gerold Frank. *American Mercury*.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, began his work toward the creation of the state when, at the age of 11, he collected pennies in his native Russia to buy land for a Jewish settlement. That land was in a "distant Turkish territory called Palestine."

His success as a spokesman for the movement of Jewish independence may be traced to many factors. First, he has a charm that rarely fails to captivate those who meet him. Secondly, his renown as a chemist has opened doors that might otherwise have been closed to him. Third, his great religious faith has made him a leader of the Jewish masses.

Israel today bears Weizmann's stamp as a scientist as surely as it bears the mark of his social vision. The Weizmann Institute, founded by Israel's President several years ago outside Tel Aviv, is one of the finest of its kind. Its wartime accomplishments verged on the fantastic.

Today the Institute is turning these accomplishments to Israel's peacetime needs. For instance, its scientists have found how to change brackish water—about the only kind found in Palestine—into fresh water at a ridiculously low cost. Castor oil is being turned into nylon thread. Marsh weeds and hard grasses are being made into synthetic wool.

Dr. Weizmann sees his country as another Switzerland. The European nation, like Israel, has few natural resources, yet it has become prosperous. Weizmann believes his country can do this, too. And he would also like to see Israel follow Switzerland's political example and remain neutral in world conflicts. Looking farther into the future, Dr. Weizmann hopes his country can make a real contribution to human brotherhood.

"How To Find a Job Today," by Addie Suehsdorf. *This Week*.

The good old days of jobs for everybody are over. It is not enough now to want a job. A person has to know how to get the job. Here are six rules based on information from guidance counsellors and personnel directors that can increase an individual's chances of finding what he wants.

Rule 1: Look where the jobs are.

Young people tend to rush headlong toward the fields that are crowded—radio, advertising, newspaper and magazine work. There are far greater opportunities in the manual trades, and such jobs can be steppingstones to real executive positions in industry.

Rule 2: Know where you're going.

Know the field you want to enter—its basic requirements, the demands it will make on you, and the opportunities it offers. Then compare your temperament, your manual skills, your ability to think and to express yourself fluently with the field's demands. Finding the right kind of work is more important than finding the right job in the beginning.

Rule 3: Check your job contacts.

Friends, relatives, former employers, "help wanted" ads, personnel offices, even the news columns of the daily newspapers can give job tips.

Rule 4: Plan your campaign. Know the company to which you are making application, then find out what you can contribute to it. Take a concise summary of essential facts about yourself and your experience, be poised and straightforward in your interview, and give all pertinent information.

Rule 5: Don't be a holdout. If you can't find the job you want, take one that is available. You will probably hold several jobs before you find the right one, and each will give you valuable experience.

Rule 6: Keep learning. Good education is the finest type of job insurance—keep learning even after you go to work. Only in that way can you take advantage of new opportunities.

"Organizing the Atlantic Community: The Strategic Problem," by George Fielding Eliot. *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science*.

The basic intent of the North Atlantic Pact is not to wage but to prevent war, but no possible aggressor will respect mere words. The Pact must be backed up with military strength. The conditions that brought the Pact into being are the vast power of the Soviet armies and the corresponding weakness found in the free countries of Western Europe—countries vital to the North Atlantic Pact.

The military needs of the North Atlantic states can be stated briefly. First, there must be sufficient ground forces to withstand attack. These forces should be drawn from the popu-



Fishing offers a chance to enjoy nature and to relax

lations of the countries to be defended. Then, there must be air power strong enough to protect centers such as Great Britain from attack and to carry the fight to the enemy's own centers. And there must be complete command of sea and air lanes across the Atlantic.

Above all else, though, there should be a plan for common defense, and an international agency with authority to study and revise the plan in the light of changing conditions.

This outline of the defense problem is simple, but the complexities and difficulties of the task can hardly be overstated. Each country is of necessity concerned chiefly with its own protection. But each must realize that security can come only through united strength.

The stronger powers, such as the United States, must understand the needs and fears of the weaker ones. Otherwise the weaker ones will despair, and despair would be worth 100 divisions to an aggressor.

The weaker peoples, on the other hand, must understand the difficulties of the stronger—difficulties arising from tradition, from reluctance to make any definite commitments in

advance, and from limited resources.

As time passes and the North Atlantic states achieve growing confidence in one another, the spirit which is needed to back up military arrangements will come into being.

"Why Boys Go Fishin'," by Paul P. Harris. *Rotarian*.

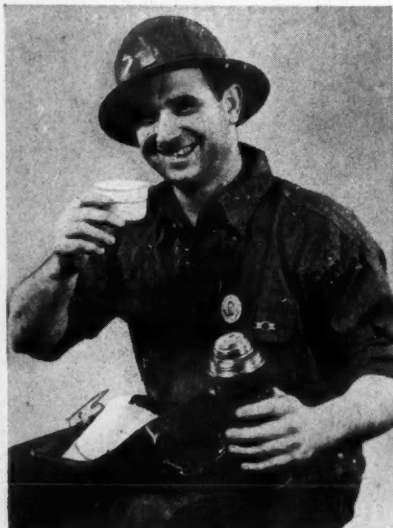
From the first day that my father took me fishing, every mountain brook has had its fascination for me. Every likely pool beneath a rock, log, or overhanging bank has been a challenge. Trout-fishing boys and men know what I have learned in the years since my first trip—that the perfect symmetry of outline and the delicacy and variety of colors of the brook trout cannot be equalled by the greatest artist.

A librarian once taught me, when I was looking for a book on fishing, that there are two kinds of fishermen—the practical and the philosophical. The practical fisherman is interested primarily in the catch. To the philosophical fisherman, the catch is only a part of the story. He is interested in the great outdoors. He finds his reward in nature—he can follow a stream or sit in a boat for hours without the slightest sense of loneliness.

Philosophical fishermen are the ones who know that brook trout are not only the most beautiful of creatures, but also the most shy and intelligent of fish. Men love to match wits with them, and a wise brook trout wins against all except the most experienced.

The philosophical fishermen also know that there is no music sweeter than the song of the brook. And they know the disappointment of losing the catch. Sometimes, I would try desperately to conceal myself from the vision of a trout. In spite of all, the shy creature would see me. A flash upstream, a slight muddying of the water where the trout had stirred up the bottom of the brook were all I got.

Then, again, hungry trout would rise to my bait, one after another. But whether or not there was a catch, the other compensations—nature, beauty, a time for relaxation and deep thought—were always to be had.



LANBERT, ACHE

Personnel experts say that a basic requirement for a successful career is a wise choice of vocation. Young people should study carefully both their own abilities and the nature of the work before making a choice